WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of latent antithrombin III, comprising incubating a solution of native antithrombin-III in the presence of sulfate ions and a buffer selected from the Good's zwitterionic buffers.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein said sulfate ions are provided as a salt selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulfate, alkali metal sulfates and alkaline earth sulfates.

3. A process according to claim 2, wherein said sulfate salt is ammonium sulfate.

4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of said sulfate ions is from 0.5 to 2.0 M.

5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the sulfate ion concentration is from 0.7 to 1 M.

6. A process according to claim 5, wherein the sulfate ion concentration is from 0.8 to 0.9 M.

7. A process according to claim 1, wherein said buffer comprises a HEPES buffer.

8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of said buffer is from 1 to 25 mM.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the buffer concentration is from 2.5 to 10 mM.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the buffer concentration is from 4 to 6 mM.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value is from 6 to 9.

12. A process according to claim 11, wherein the pH value is from 7 to 8.

13. A process according to claim 12, wherein the pH value is from 7.4 to 7.6.

14. A process according to claim 1, further comprising treating said latent antithrombin III to inactivate or remove pathogens in or from said latent antithrombin III.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein said pathogen is a virus or a prion.

16. A process according to claim 14, wherein said treatment comprises at least one method selected from the group consisting of chemical inactivation, heat inactivation, light inactivation, microwave inactivation and nano-filtration removal.

17. A process according to claim 1, further comprising isolating said latent antithrombin from said solution.

18. A process according to claim 17, wherein said isolating step comprises affinity chromatography or hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

19. A process according to claim 1, wherein said buffer comprises a MES buffer.

20. A process according to claim 1, wherein said buffer comprises a PIPES buffer.